

FEDERAL BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak today about an issue which is very important to America and its future.

I have here a chart which shows the Federal budget. Ordinarily, things above the line are good. But, in this case, things below the line are good. Because when we are above the line, we have a deficit; and when we are below the line, we have a surplus. What we see is that, for fiscal year 1998, we have a surplus; for 1999, a surplus; a small surplus for 2000; and then big surpluses after that. That is really good news.

Supposedly, we have balanced the budget; and America will now be on a course to reducing our debt. If we pay this money back on the debt or if we spend it or give it back as a tax cut, at least the debt should stay the same as it is now.

But when we look at the next chart, what we see here, and these are estimates from CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, the official office that estimates where the economy is going, how large the deficit is going to be, how large the debt is going to be, and what we see here is that there is an ever-rising debt, that the debt goes up and up.

How can the debt go up when we have balanced the budget and we have a surplus? Now, if we spent the surplus, at the worst, the debt ought to stay the same. But the debt is going up and up. As a matter of fact, the debt goes up almost a trillion dollars, from about \$5.4 to about \$6.4 trillion by about 2002. How in the world can that happen? How can we have a balanced budget with a surplus and still have a very large increase in the debt?

□ 1315

It is because of the way we define the budget. The balanced budget that our people talk about is when we balance the amount of money which comes into the government against the amount of money which goes out of the government. But something over 10 percent of the money that comes into the government is not the government's money to spend.

Let me show Members the next chart. The next chart shows the elements of our debt. About two-thirds of our debt are held by the public. About a third of our debt is in government accounts. What are these so-called government accounts? What that debt is, is money which does not belong to the government, should not be spent for the government except for the purpose for which it is collected.

Social Security is about a third of that, the Social Security Trust Fund. Last year we took about \$59 billion out of the Social Security Trust Fund, spent it for routine government operating activities, and make the perfectly

silly statement that the Social Security surplus offsets the deficit. That is because they refer to a unified budget, all that comes in and all that goes out, but over 10 percent of what comes in is not the government's to spend. The reason the debt goes up is because the government owes that money. About \$180 billion a year is about the amount of money that is taken out of the trust funds and spent for general government operating activities. That is not the government's money to spend. As a matter of fact, most of that money belongs to seniors.

Look at the categories. Social Security, Medicare, railroad retirement, military retirement, civil service retirement. That is over 90 percent of all of the trust fund money that is spent belongs to seniors. It needs to be there in those trust funds so it will be available for seniors. All that is in those trust funds is a bunch of IOUs. The bills come due when we need to have them. We do not have a balanced budget. The budget is in fact out of balance by about \$180 billion a year.

We need to be honest with the American people. We have balanced a unified budget, but that does not keep the debt from going up. Let me put it back up here. The debt goes up about \$1 trillion over the next 5 or 6 years. That represents the \$180 billion a year that we are taking from the trust funds and spending on routine government operating activities. The budget, as anybody outside of the Beltway would define it, is clearly not balanced. We are still running a deficit of \$180 billion a year. That is money taken from accounts largely owned by our senior citizens.

We need to demand that the government have honest accounting. We really need to balance the budget. No senior I know wants to pass on a bigger and bigger debt to their children and their grandchildren. That is what this accounting does. We need to demand honest accounting, we need to have truly a balanced budget. To get there we have got to spend \$180 billion a year less. That is our challenge in the Congress. Hold us to that responsibility.

ILLEGAL DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House again this afternoon to talk about one of the greatest threats to our Nation and to our society. That is the threat of drugs and illegal narcotics. I have spoken many times on the floor about this. Today let me review for a minute again the history of how we got ourselves into the situation where we have a tide of drugs coming into this country and countless deaths because of drug abuse and drug misuse.

First of all, in 1993, when the other party controlled the White House, the other body and the House of Represent-

atives, they took actions which we are paying for today. First, they cut and almost eliminated most of the staff in the drug czar's office. Then they cut the military involvement in the war on drugs. Then they decimated and cut the source country programs to stop drugs where they are grown and where they are produced. Then they appointed a Surgeon General that said just say maybe. At probably one of the lowest points we had comments relayed by the President who said if he had it to do over again, he would inhale.

We also had a situation that we are looking into now on my Subcommittee on National Security, International Affairs, and Criminal Justice where Federal drug prosecutions in this country are actually down and have dropped. Just within the last few weeks, this administration took the final blow in certifying Mexico, which is the source of 50 percent of the hard drugs entering this country, certifying them, making them eligible for benefits of the United States trade, aid, and foreign assistance.

It just is not right. The results are incredible. Listen to these statistics. Since 1992, drug use among teens has skyrocketed 70 percent. Half of high school seniors think that it is easy to obtain cocaine and LSD in a national survey. Eighth grade drug use has increased by 150 percent since 1992. One out of 4 high school seniors is currently a user of illegal drugs.

I come from central Florida, a beautiful area in our Nation. Let me tell Members what has happened in my community, a rather prosperous district in central Florida, is doing very well and economically well placed. But in Orlando, in 1995, we ranked fifth in the Nation in cocaine deaths per capita. Orange County and Osceola counties in central Florida led our State in heroin deaths per capita in 1996. Cocaine deaths in Orlando went up in 1996 to 87 from an already high number of 75. Tampa and St. Petersburg had a combined 91 deaths in 1997. The wholesale price of heroin in central Florida has dropped dramatically from 1991 to 1997.

Let me tell Members what Republicans have done. We have restored some of the Clinton cuts from the 1993 to 1995 period. We have gotten our military back into the war. We have restarted our source country interdiction and eradication programs. We have passed tougher laws. We think tougher laws work. You can spend a lot of money. But look at New York City with a Republican mayor, Rudy Giuliani. In just a few years with tough enforcement and tough prosecution, they have dramatically dropped the crime and incidence of drug abuse and use in that city.

Tomorrow in central Florida we initiate a HIDTA. It is called a high intensity drug trafficking initiative. That program is a Federal program,